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N E W S B R I E F S

No.1 June,1990

CDPM
DOCUMENTAÇÃO

LETTERS FROM EAST TIMOR

Letters smuggled out from East Timor report on human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian soldiers in Viqueque region(south coast of the territory). The letters written in Portuguese are read as follow - ing :

Teresa Amaral(27) from Bibileu,displaced to Lalerek Mutin on September 27,1983 after the rebellion of the Ratih and Hansip (para-military forces) aginst Indonesian soldiers in Kraras to protect their wives and other women from raping and other ill-treatment of the Indonesia military officials.

Following the rebellion and after being displaced to Lalerek Mutin she fled to the mountains together with a big number of residents of Kraras village. They couldn't resist against disease and starvation. They split into two groups and surrendered to the Indonesian forces in two different places : Bukarin and Viqueque. Many people of the two groups were killed after surrendering to the soldiers.Those people who were killed in Bukarin were buried in the river of We-Tuku. The other group who surrendered in Viqueque were tied up and buried alived in Sukaer-Oan, 10 quilometres in the southeast of Viqueque. Others who escaped from the murder were displaced to Lalerek Mutin and later many of them died of starvation, yellow fever and malaria.

On October 21,1989,there were 1553 persons including 30 widowers and 191 widows in Lalerek Mutin.

Cristina Brandao(26),from Bibileu,is also in a similar situation as Teresa. Their husbands, Olocaio and Delfim Rangel separated from them follow ing the rebellion of Kraras and went to the mountains. They are now FRETILIN guerrillas. The two women live in Lalerek Mutin at the same home,RK-II/RT-II (see picture No.1). They are under permanent surveillance of eight Indonesian commandos (Nanggalla Ind.) and five Timorese collaborators from Viqueque.

The eight commandos are from the 2nd battalion of the 86th Unit whose headquarter is located in Baucau.

The two women's home have been always "visited" by the Indonesian troops,during which they are raped. The soldiers eat, drink and sleep there, especially during the night alleging that their husbands could come by night to see them.

On March 26,1990, about midnight, the eight commandos who were at the two women's home, pretended of having seen Olocaio and Delfim near the home;when chased by the soldiers both men disappeared at Joaquim Sarmento's home. Joaquim Sarmento is 42 years old and was also displaced to Lalerek Mutin.

As the soldiers didn't find the two persons at his home,he was dragged along to the military platoon post of the 408th battalion where he was tortured : he was badly beaten by the butt of gun on the chest,back,and kicked by leather boots untill become unconcious. The soldiers wanted him to confess. As he couldn't resist the tortures any more he did a false declaration : on 25 March 1990 while he returned from the rice-field he met Olocaio and a FRETILIN guerrilla who wanted to surrender; he was asked by them to guarantee their lives after surrendering to the soldiers; they asked for a documment that would assure their lives when surrendered and the documment should be spread in We-Todo,Hidar Laran and Aifon, in order that they could find.

Antero Carvalho(50) widower, from Bibileu displaced to Lalerek Mutin on September 27,1983, uses to extract palm tree wine to help feeding at home. In the night he is ordered to make guard around the village. As usual, every morning he leaves home to extract palm tree wine,off of the village. One day on March 27, when returned home he met the commandos who asked him for wine.After that he proceeded his home. At 3:00 p.m. of the same day Antero was summoned to the military post of the commandos and subjected to the interrogation. He was accused by the commandos that he went to We-Todo not to extract wine but to contact the FRETILIN guerrillas. Antero denied and was tortured : he was beaten by the butt of the gun and kicked. His lips and face became swollen and a rip broken . He was also burnt with cigarettes on the ears,lips, back, shoulders and other part of his body.

Antero couldn't resist and made a false declaration : he said that he met four hairy FRETILIN guerrillas;two of them armed. They spoke to each other in Dagada dialect. Antero couldn't understand because he only speaks Tetum. He was held in the military post untill 29 March 1990.

Sebastiao dos Reis was badly torture twice by Indonesian soldiers.He was accused of having received a riffle from the chief of the village. He couldn't resist the tortures and he declared that he and other people of

the village, Funu Loik (Lalerek Mutin RK/RT-VI),Funu Ser(Lalerek Mutin RK/VI/RT-VI),Filomeno Brandoa (Lalerek Mutin RK-I/RT-I),Filomeno Rangel (Lalerek Mutin RK-III/RT-III), Nahak Siku (Lalerek Mutin RK-II/RT-II) Silvino(Lalerek Mutin RK-II/RT-II), Mateus(Lalerek Mutin RK-II/RT-II), Miguel Rangel (Lalerek Mutin RT-IV/RK-IV),Miguel Amaral(Lalerek Mutin RK-IV/RT-IV), Angela Amaral (Lalerek Mutin RK-IV/RT-II),Angelaina Rangel (Lalerek Mutin RK-II/RT-II) and Celina Rangel (Lalerek Mutin RK-II /Rt-II, sent ammunitions, rice,clothes, medicines, etc through Candido Amaral to the FRETILIN guerrillas.

After having registered all the names, the commandos stopped torturing him. Candido Amaral who was at the vigilance post, was summoned to the military post at about 23:00 on 28th March 1990. He is 39 years old, from Bibileu, displaced to Lalerek Mutin on September 27 , 1983. He is married and has five children. He was then subjected to torture and interrogation.

The soldiers wanted him to make declarations. A Timorese,Paulo Miguel, collaborator of the Indonesian commandos tortured him while the soldiers interrogated him. Candido Amaral didn't say a word. He was repeatedly tortured.Later they took him back to their place and put off Candido clothes and burnt him with cigarattes on the sex.

On 29 March 1990 at 5:00 a.m., he was taken by the soldiers to Tua-Metan and machinegunned to death in a such way that part of his body disappeared.

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Legend of Lalerek Mutin's village (see Picture No.1)

Nº 1- Main civillian vigilance post

2- Civillian vigilance post (nocturnal vigilance)

3- Civillian vigilance post (nocturnal vigilance)

4- Chapel of Lalerek Mutin

5- Commandos Post (Nanggala Ind.)

6- Primary school

7- Military post of the battalion 408

8- Civillian vigilance post (where Candido was on the evening of 28 March 1990)

9 to 15- Civillian vigilance post (nocturnal vigilance)

I = RK-I

II = RK-II

III = RK-III

IV = RK-IV

V = RK-V

VI = RK-VI

VII = RK-VII

Alphabet "A" -Office of the chief of the village (kantor desa)

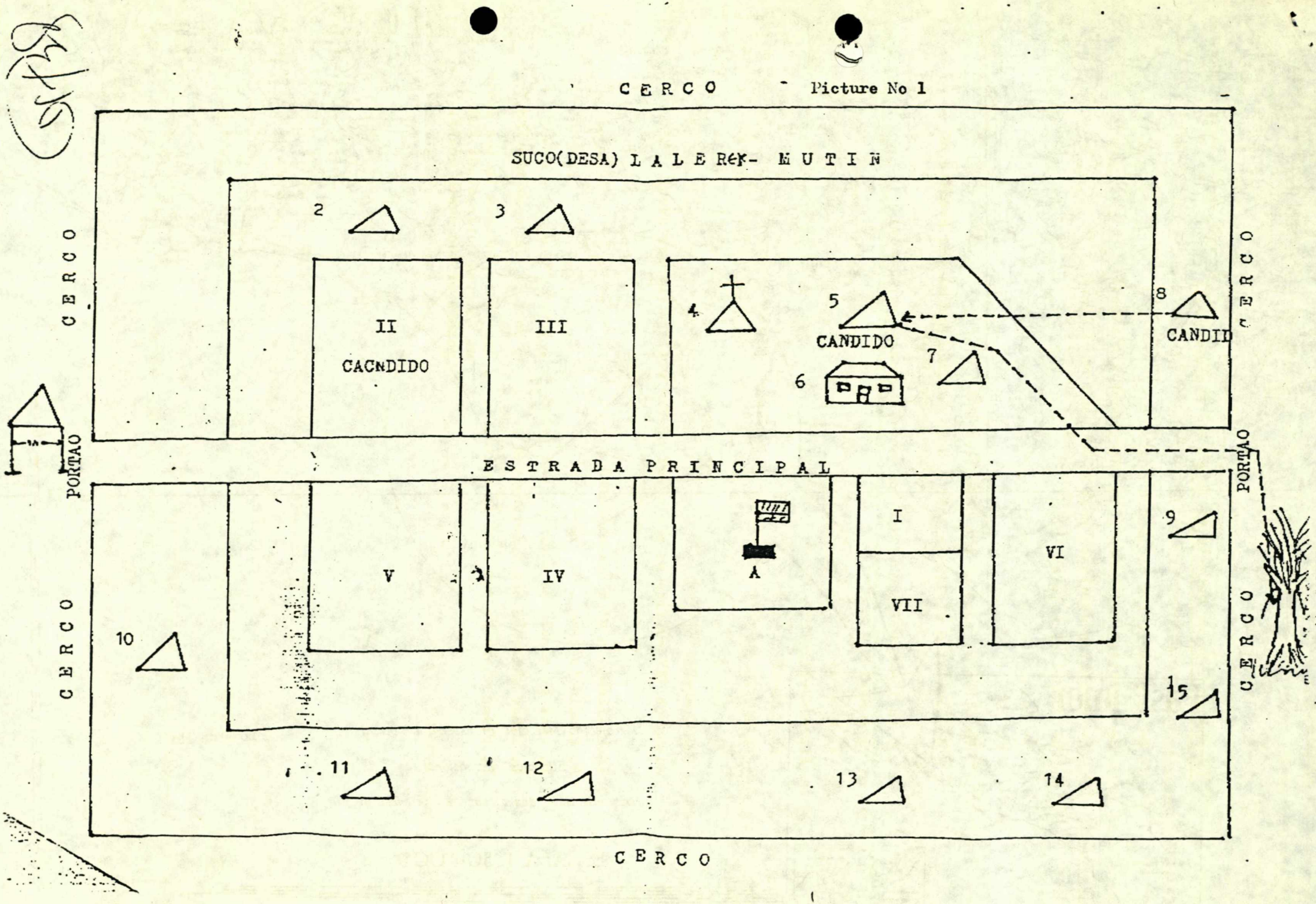
Identification of Candido Amaral :

A. Candido's home . . RK-II

B. Post of vigilance where he was found . . .Post No. 8

C. Place where he was interrogated . . . Post of the commandos/No.5

D. Place where he was shot to death. . . Tua-Metan,located in the south of Lalerek Mutin,about 200 meters of the south coast.


CERCO
SUCO(DESA) L A L E R - M U T I N
CERCO
CERCO
2
3
II
CACNDIDO
III
4
5
CANDIDO
6
7
8
CANDID
PORTAO
E S T R A D A P R I N C I P A L
PORTAO
V
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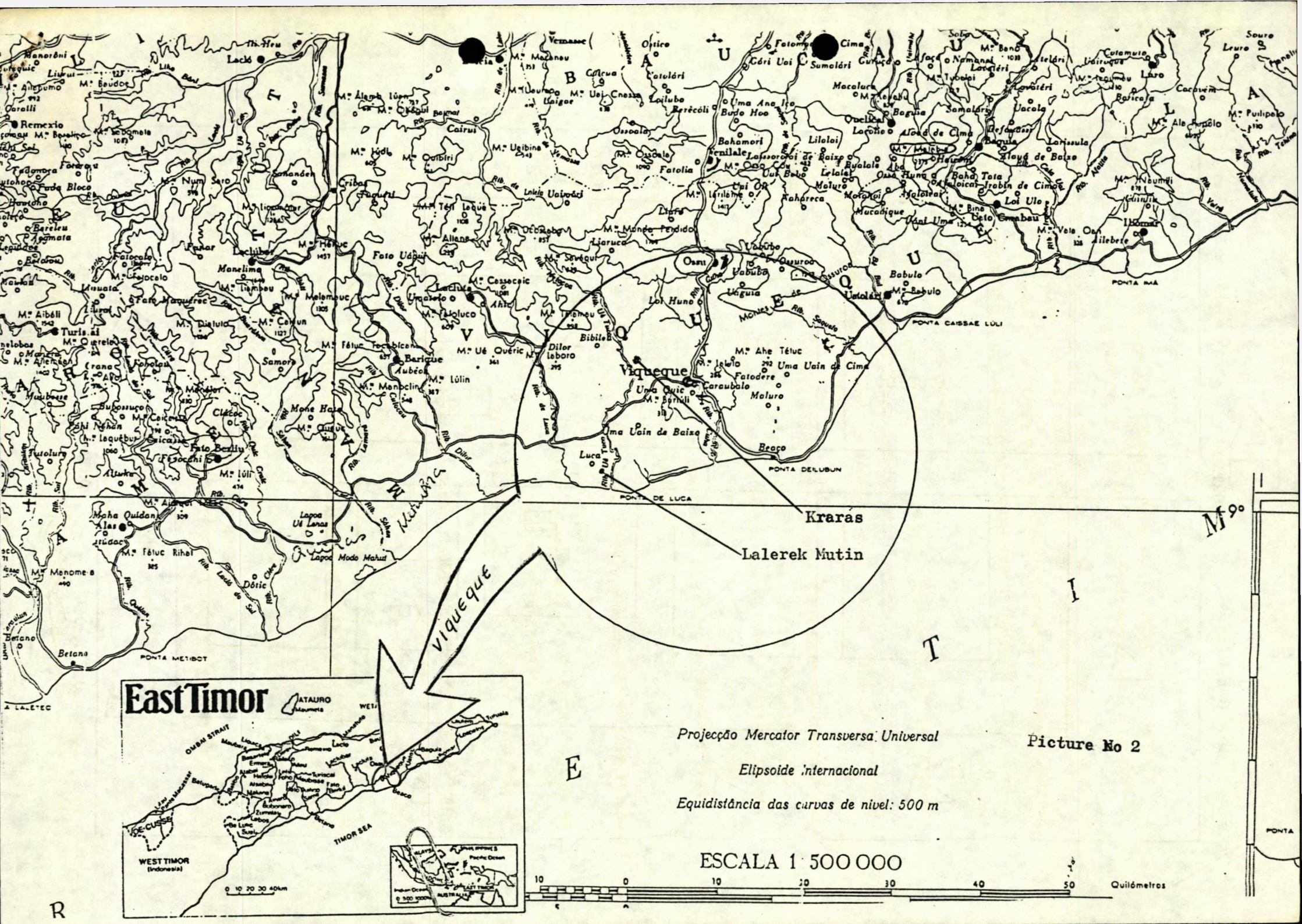
CERCO

Picture No 1


Kraras
Lalerek Mutin
viqueque
East Timor
WEST TIMOR
(Indonesia)
TIMOR SEA
OMBAI STRAIT
Projecção Mercator Transversa Universal
Elipsoide Internacional
Equidistância das curvas de nivel: 500 m
ESCALA 1 : 500 000
Quilómetros
Picture No 2